



Q: What is the big deal about drifting tobacco smoke?

A: According to the Surgeon General (2006) there is no risk-free level of exposure to secondhand smoke (SHS) also called environmental tobacco smoke (ETS)

- Secondhand smoke contains numerous harmful chemicals, and exposure to these chemicals is a serious health hazard¹
- Secondhand smoke does not respect boundaries. It seeps through light fixtures, ceiling crawl spaces, and doorways into all areas of a building in which a person smokes. Secondhand smoke cannot be controlled by ANY type of ventilation system, air cleaning or by the separation of smokers from non-smokers in the same building¹
- Secondhand smoke causes over 50,000 deaths annually in the United States²
- Secondhand smoke causes 34,000 premature deaths from heart disease each year in the United States³
- 80 to 90% of lung cancers are associated with smoking and secondhand smoke exposure^{4,5}
- Non-smokers who are exposed to secondhand smoke have a 25-30% increased risk of developing heart disease as well as a 20-30% increased risk for developing a stroke⁵
- The only solution to eliminate secondhand smoke is to make buildings smoke-free (American Society of Heating, Refrigerating, and Air Conditioning Engineers Report, 2005)

References

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